

REMARKS

Claims 6-11, 13-16 and 18-30 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 6-11, 14-16, 19, 21 and 23-28 are amended, and claims 29 and 30 are added for the Examiner's consideration. Support for the added claims is provided at least at pages 13 and 14 of the specification, as originally filed. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the below comments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner to Applicants' representative during an interview conducted on January 13, 2004. During this interview, Applicants' representative discussed the many advantages and distinguishing features of the claimed invention over the applied references. In compliance with the Examiner's request, to the best of Applicants' knowledge, the conventional GCD method as provided in the exhibit has been used by Applicants since 1953. The Examiner agreed to consider new method claims reciting the use of the sprue being processed to form the union hole.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 6-11, 13-6 and 18-28 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants amend the claims in order to overcome the objections to claims 6-11, 13-16 and 18-28.

However, Applicants respectfully traverse a portion of this objection. Specifically, Applicants submit that the phrase "one side of providing the cylinder" and the "other side for molding" in claim 6, for example, is provided with proper support in the claim at lines 3 and 4. But, again to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants amended these claims for clarity only to provide "a" and "an" respectively, in claims 6, 15 and 19.

As to the 112, 2nd paragraph, rejection, Applicants also traverse portions of this rejection. For example, Applicants submit that the phrase "one side" in claims 9-11 is clear; however, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, these claims were amended. Applicants now request the entire application be allowed to pass to issuance.

As to the rejection of claims 14 and 16, Applicants note that the doctrine of claim differentiation applies to these claims.

Lastly, as to the rejection of claim 19, Applicants submit that the union hole and the sprue are separate from one another. As discussed during the interview, the union hole is formed in the sprue, which was formed during the casting process. More specifically, a mold sprue is a hole through which metal is poured into the gate. But a cast sprue (e.g., sprue), as used in the invention, is different from a mold sprue. Also, the union hole is different from the sprue. In the invention, the sprue is the result of the molten metal being poured through the sprue hole of the mold. This resultant sprue is a solid piece of some height formed on a portion of the cylinder. It is this sprue that is then processed to form the union hole in which working fluid can now be used with the caliper. This is evidenced in the accompanying affidavit by expert, Mr. Keisuke Ban.

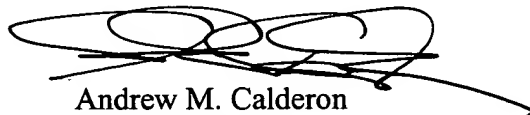
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Conclusion

Applicants submit that the objection and 112, 2nd paragraph, rejection are now moot and that all of the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



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